

REMARKS

I. Introduction and Formal Matters

Claims 1-35 were presented for examination. A number of claims were rejected, while many claims were objected to as being allowable but dependent upon a rejected-based claim. By this Amendment, applications have amended claims 1, 4, 18, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, and 34.

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The examiner objected to the specification on the basis of several minor informalities, all of which have been corrected by the amendments to the specification.

The examiner rejected claims 4, 22, 23, and 25-35 as being indefinite on the basis of minor informalities. Applicants contend that the claims, as written, provided adequate notice. For clarity and grammar, amendments have been made to the claims to address each of the points raised by the examiner. With respect to the rejection of claim 25, Applicants contend that no change is needed. The steps are indeed method steps, but recite what device is performing the acts set out in the steps. There should be no substantive difference between “changing, by the first device,” and “the first device changing.”

II. Substantive Rejections

The examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 13, 17, 25, and 32 as being unpatentable over Narcisse; and rejected claims 18, 19, and 23 as being unpatentable over Cataldo in view either LaWhite or Levinson.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 25, the examiner contends that Narcisse showed a change in physical state because of the alarm condition, which is actually a change in the electronics of the device. These claims have been amended to state that “the change in a

physical state includes a change in the outward appearance of at least a part of the first device or a movement that causes a change in the position of one part of the first device relative to other parts of the first device.” Narcisse does not have any teaching or suggestion to sense the outward appearance or a movement that causes a change in the position of one part of the first device relative to other parts as recited in claims 1 and 25.

Claims 1 and 25 should be allowed, as should the other claims dependent on claims 1 and 25 at least for the same reasons.

Independent claim 18 was rejected as being unpatentable over Cataldo in view of LaWhite or Levinson. The examiner contended that Cataldo discloses sensing a contraction through the use of an alarm triggered by a user squeezing two buttons. Such use of two buttons is a known approach for allowing a user to provide a signal while reducing the likelihood of inadvertent signaling. Claim 18 has been amended to make clear that the squeeze provides a contraction to the bracelet to cause the bracelet to contract around and squeeze the wearer of the bracelet, as opposed to the type of squeezing shown in Cataldo. The cited references do not teach or suggest such a contraction around the wearer.

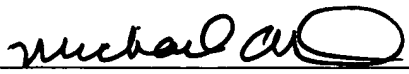
Claim 18, and the claims dependent on claim 18, should therefore be allowed.

The application should now be in condition for allowance, and accordingly a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If this amendment does not put the application in condition for allowance, applicant requests that the examiner contact his attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fee that may be due in connection with this matter, including any extensions of time that may be due, to our deposit account number 08-0219.

Sincerely,

Date: December 21, 2004



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